

1. **Introduction:** Immediately after Jesus had amazed the congregation at Capernaum with His authoritative teaching and exorcising of the demon, He left the Capernaum Synagogue with James and John and went to the house of Simon and Andrew.
2. **Mark 1:29-32:** *“And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.*
 - Simon was married. His mother-in-law lived with them. Apparently, Andrew did also as the house is referred to as that of Simon and Andrew.
 - When they arrived, Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever. Luke, the physician, says in Luke 4:38 that she had a **“high fever.”**
 - Family members made the lady's condition known. Jesus responded with compassion. He **“came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her.”**
 - Mark repeatedly points out Jesus' physical touch in healing (1:41; 3:10; 5:27, 41; 6:15; 7:32-34; 8:23-25).
 - Jesus' miracles are complete, undeniable, and immediate.
 - They authenticate His authority and power.
 - Genuine healing miracles seem never to be subtle or incomplete and their benefits are obvious.
 - When Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law, she received perfect health immediately.
 - All 3 synoptic gospels note that she began to serve the food prepared the day before as though she had never been sick. Every fever symptom vanished completely.
 - It was the Sabbath (Saturday), a day during which people could not carry burdens or do any other kind of work.
 - All Sabbath food had been prepared on the preceding day.
3. **Mark 1: 32-34:** *That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.”*
 - The Hebrew day began at sundown and ended at the next sundown. The sabbath ended at sundown on Saturday and the first day of the week began.
 - The news of Jesus' demon-expulsion and healing of Peter's mother-in-law's fever spread rapidly. At sundown, when the sabbath was over, Peter's house was mobbed.

- People *“brought to him (Jesus) all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.”*
 - Jesus’ willingness to heal was never lacking. His love and caring for people never failed. *“And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.”*
4. **Mark 1:34b**: *“And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.”*
- Demons, using the vocal cords of the ones they possessed, were speaking the truth of Jesus’ divine identity.
 - Why did the demons do that? Jesus forbade the demons to speak of His divinity. Why did Jesus do that?
 - We don’t have a definitive answer to either question.
 - But, most likely, the demons were trying to interfere with Jesus carrying out His mission as Satan had done when he tempted Him in the wilderness.
 - In Matthew’s account of this incident, he identifies the healings performed by Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53:4a, *“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering.”*
5. **Mark 1:35-39**: *“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” ³⁸And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” ³⁹And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.”*
- After His long, strenuous day, Jesus felt the need to pray. Very early, while it was still dark, He went to a desolate place and prayed.
 - Meanwhile, back at the house, Peter and the others woke up to find Jesus missing.
 - Very likely, there was a crowd at Peter’s door that day eager to see Jesus who had worked such miracles.
 - Peter and others searched for Jesus and eventually found Him. They said to Him, *“Everyone is looking for you.”*
 - Jesus’ response undoubtedly surprised them. Rather than “OK, let us hurry to the people waiting to see me and be healed,” Jesus focused their attention on His mission.
 - He said, *“Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.”*

- It seemed strange to Peter and the others for Jesus to not take advantage of the great interest being shown in Jesus in Capernaum. It seemed to be a wonderful opportunity.
 - The need of people to be healed was indeed important to Jesus, but fulfilling His primary mission to make spiritual salvation possible was His overriding concern.
 - His miracles authenticated His message and benefited those healed, but His overall mission must be completed.
 - In pursuit of the fulfillment of His primary mission, Jesus then moves on to other towns in Galilee.
 - Mark says, ***“And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.”***
 - This is a brief summary of several months of ministry.
 - Like the days in Capernaum, He preaches in synagogues and casts out demons throughout the region.
 - According to Matthew and Luke, during that phase of the Galilean ministry, Jesus healed all kinds of illnesses.
6. **Mark 1:40-45**: ***“And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, ‘If you will, you can make me clean.’ ⁴¹Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, ‘I will; be clean.’ ⁴²And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴and said to him, ‘See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.’ ⁴⁵But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.”***
- The Law of Moses required anyone afflicted with leprosy to shout “Unclean! Unclean!” when coming in the presence of others to provide time for them to protect themselves.
 - In Scripture, when leprosy is successfully treated, it is never “healed” or “cured.” A person whose leprosy is eliminated is said to have been “cleansed.”
 - Likewise, sin cannot be healed, but only cleansed. Jesus cleansed lepers and lived and died so that many might be cleansed of sin and made holy as God is holy.
 - There are two surprises in this lepers’ visit to Jesus. First, the leper does not shout “Unclean” as required.
 - Then, rather than asking Jesus to cleanse him, he says ***“If you will, you can make me clean.”***
 - In that way he acknowledges Jesus’ sovereign authority.

- The grace of healing is always God's gift, His to give or not give, never ours to demand.
- Jesus was deeply moved to compassion by the leper's approach to Him and by the leper's suffering.
- Jesus said, ***"I will"*** and then did what was ceremonially forbidden and dangerous. He reached out and touched the leper before he was cleansed, while he was truly unclean.
- Immediately, leprosy left the man. He was cleansed in a ceremonial sense and restored to health in a medical sense.
- Jesus gave the man instructions to avoid talking about his cleansing. Apparently, Jesus didn't want His preaching ministry hampered by sensational news.
- The man was to show himself to a priest, offer the required sacrifice, be declared clean, and reenter normal society.
- The man didn't do as Jesus had sternly charged him to do.
- Mark says, ***"But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter."***
- The man's indiscretion didn't hinder Jesus' mission, but it did cause Him to need to stay on the outskirts of towns where He could accommodate the crowds and continue to preach effectively.
- It is crucial for each of us to recognize that, apart from Christ, we are unclean before God.
- But as Jesus with the leper, God does not reject us. We too can say to the Lord, if You will, you can cleanse me of sin.
- He lovingly reaches out and touches us and we are cleansed.

7. **What is Next:** Begin with Mark 2:1.